

Message Text

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22

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 /070 W

----- 020920

R 030345Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6055

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 0830

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, AF

SUBJ: DEPARTURE FROM AFGHANISTAN OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

1. SUMMARY. HASAN SHARQ HAS LEFT AFGHANISTAN "FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT," RAISING FURTHER SERIOUS DOUBT ABOUT HIS POLITICAL FUTURE. END SUMMARY.

2. KABUL RADIO ANNOUNCED EVENING FEBRUARY 1 THAT FIRST DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER HASAN SHARQ HAD LEFT THAT MORNING FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT IN FRANCE.

3. RUMORS HAVE LONG BEEN PREVALENT OF SHARQ'S DIMINISHMENT IN THE GOVERNMENTAL PECKING ORDER, OF HIS ACTUAL LOSS OF THE POWER OF HIS OFFICE (ALTHOUGH HE RETAINS HIS TITLE), AND OF SIGNIFICANT IN-HOUSE POWER STRUGGLES WHICH RANGED THE LIKES OF CENTRAL FORCES COMMANDER (AND SINCE JANUARY 28 CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF) GENERAL HAIDER-RASULI AGAINST HIM. (SEE KABUL 0717 AND ALSO 6429 OF SEPT 29, 1975.) SHARQ'S SUDDEN DEPARTURE CREATES NEW RAASON TO BELIEVE HE IS "DOWN," BUT WE QUESTION WHETHER THIS STAUNCH
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DAOUD LOYALIST FOR SO MANY YEARS SHOULD BE

COUNTED FINALLY "OUT".

4. EMBOFF WAS TOLD ON DAY OF SHARQ'S DEPARTURE THAT DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SUFFERS A HERNIATED DISPHRAGM, FRAISING INTERESTING POSSIBILITY THAT OSTENSIBLE REASON FOR SHARQ'S JOURNEY MIGHT EVEN HAVE BEEN COMPELLING ONE.

5. WHATEVER SHARQ'S PRESENT OR FUTURE HIS SEND-OFF WAS DONE WITH HONOR. PRESIDENT'S BROTHER NAIM WAS AT AIRPORT TO BID FAREWELL, AS WERE SECOND DEPUTY PRIMIN ABDULLELLAH AND LARGE CROWD OF NOTABLES. AS IMPORTANT AS FACT OF THIS SEND-OFF WAS FACT THAT KABUL RADIO PUBLICIZED IT.

ELIOT

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